CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions of claims with the following listing of claims:

1. (***Currently Amended***) A method for determining a user affinity for a topic comprising the steps of:

assigning a category to at least one object;

associating the at least one object with at least one user;

maintaining a record of a number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and a record of action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user, wherein the types of the actions comprise an authoring action type, a response action type, a linking action type, and an editing action type, and wherein the record is maintained in meta data associated with the at least one object;

associating a value with each of the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; ~~and~~

calculating ~~determining~~ a user affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object ~~category~~ based on the number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and the values associated with the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; and

storing the user affinity score.

2. (***Currently Amended***) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein the step of~~ determining a user affinity to the category based on the ~~determines the user affinity by calculating an~~ affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object.

3. (***Currently Amended***) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, further comprising the step of: normalizing the affinity score calculated.

4. (***Original***) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of: applying a population threshold of a plurality of users to the affinity score.

5. (***Original***) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

associating a predetermined percentage of the plurality of users with the user affinity for the at least one topic.

6. (***Currently Amended***) The method of claim 1, wherein the meta data associated with the at least one object comprises at least one of an author field that indicates authoring actions, a response to field that indicates response actions, a links field that indicates linking actions, an editors field that indicates editing actions, and a reading field that indicates reading actions.

7. (***Currently Amended***) The method of claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein the ~~further comprising the step of: calculating an~~ affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object is calculated from a sum of weighted action type counts, wherein each action type count is determined by multiplying the number of times the user performed that action by the value associated with that action type.

8. (***Previously Presented***) The method of claim 7, wherein the affinity score is calculated according to a formula of:

$$A * Va + T * Vt + L * Vl + E * Ve + R * Vr;$$

where A is the author field, Va is an author value associated with authoring actions, T is the response to field, Vt is a response to value associated with the response actions, L is the links field, Vi is a links value associated with linking actions, E is the editors field, Ve is an editors value associated with editing actions, R is the reading field, and Vr is a reading value associated with reading actions.

9. (***Original***) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: determining whether the at least one user has performed at least one action on the at least one object.

10. (***Original***) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of: decaying the user affinity of the at least one user if a determination is made that the at least one user has not performed any actions on the at least one object.

11. (***Original***) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of decaying the user affinity decays at a constant rate.

12. (***Previously Presented***) The method of claim 11, wherein the constant rate is a predetermined percentage per a predetermined period of time.

13. (***Original***) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
resetting the user affinity if a determination is made that the at least one user has performed the at least one action on the at least one object.

14. (***Original***) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
enabling a system administrator to decline the user affinity.

15. (***Original***) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
enabling the user to decline the user affinity.

16. (***Currently Amended***) A system for determining a user affinity for a topic comprising:

assigning means for assigning a category to at least one object;

associating means for associating the at least one object with at least one user;

maintaining means for maintaining a record of a number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and a record of action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user, wherein the types of the actions comprise an authoring action type, a response action type, a linking action type, and an editing action type, and wherein the record is maintained in meta data associated with the at least one object;

associating means for associating a value with each of the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; ~~and~~

calculating ~~determining~~ means for calculating ~~determining~~ a user affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object ~~category~~ based on the number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and the values associated with the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; and

storage means for storing the user affinity score.

17. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 16, wherein the calculating ~~determining~~ means determines a user affinity to the category based on the ~~determines the user affinity by calculating an~~ affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object.

18. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 16 ~~17~~, further comprising normalizing means for normalizing the affinity score calculated.

19. (***Original***) The system of claim 18, further comprising applying means for applying a population threshold of a plurality of users to the affinity score.

20. (***Original***) The system of claim 19, further comprising percentage associating means for associating a predetermined percentage of the plurality of users with the user affinity for the at least one topic.

21. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 16, wherein the meta data of the at least one object comprises at least one of an author field that indicates authoring actions, a response to field that indicates response actions, a links field that indicates linking actions, an editors field that indicates editing actions, and a reading field that indicates reading actions.

22. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 16 ~~21~~, wherein the user ~~further comprising calculating means for calculating an~~ affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object is calculated from a sum of weighted action type counts, wherein each action type count is determined by multiplying the number of times the user performed that action by the value associated with that action type.

23. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 22, wherein the affinity score is calculated according to a formula of:

$$A * Va + T * Vt + L * Vl + E * Ve + R * Vr;$$

where A is the author field, Va is an author value associated with authoring actions, T is the response to field, Vt is a response to value associated with response actions, L is the links field, VI is a links value associated with linking actions, E is the editors field, Ve is an editors

value associated with editing actions, R is the reading field, and Vr is a reading value associated with reading actions.

24. (***Original***) The system of claim 16, further comprising action determining means for determining whether the at least one user has performed at least one action on the at least one object.

25. (***Original***) The system of claim 24, further comprising decaying means for decaying the user affinity of the at least one user if a determination is made that the at least one user has not performed any actions on the at least one object.

26. (***Original***) The system of claim *25,* wherein the decaying means decays the affinity score at a constant rate.

27. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 26, wherein the constant rate is a predetermined percentage per a predetermined period of time.

28. (***Original***) The system of claim 24, further comprising resetting means for resetting the user affinity if a determination is made that the at least one user has performed the at least one action on the at least one object.

29. (***Original***) The system of claim 16, further comprising declining means for enabling a system administrator to decline the user affinity.

30. (***Original***) The system of claim 16, further comprising declining means for enabling the user to decline the user affinity.

31. (***Currently Amended***) A system for determining a user affinity for a topic comprising:

an assigning module that assigns a category to at least one object;

an associating module that associates the at least one object with at least one user;

a maintaining module that maintains a record of a number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and a record of action types of the

actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user ~~viewer~~, wherein the types of the actions comprise an authoring action type, a response action type, a linking action type, and an editing action type, and wherein the record is maintained in meta data associated with the at least one object;

a determining module that associates a value with each of the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user, and calculates ~~determines~~ a user affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object ~~category~~ based on the number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and the values associated with the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; and

a storage module that stores the user affinity score.

32. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 31, wherein the determining module determines the user affinity ~~by calculating an affinity score~~ for the user's association with the category based on the calculated user affinity score ~~at least one object~~.

33. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 31 ~~32~~, further comprising a normalizing module that normalizes the affinity score calculated.

34. (***Original***) The system of claim 32, further comprising an applying module that applies a population threshold of a plurality of users to the affinity score.

35. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 34, further comprising a percentage associating module that associates a predetermined percentage of the plurality of users with the user affinity for the at least one topic.

36. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 31, wherein the meta data of the at least one object comprises at least one of an author field that indicates authoring actions, a response to field that indicates response actions, a links field that indicates linking actions, an editors field that indicates editing actions, and a reading field that indicates reading actions.

37. (***Currently Amended***) The system of claim 36, wherein the user ~~further comprising a calculating module that calculates an~~ affinity score for the user's association

with the at least one object is calculated from a sum of weighted action type counts, wherein each action type count is determined by multiplying the number of times the user performed that action by the value associated with that action type.

38. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 37, wherein the affinity score is calculated according to a formula of:

$$A * Va + T * Vt + L * Vl + E * Ve + R * Vr;$$

where A is the author value associated with authoring actions, T is the response to field, Vt is a response to value associated with response actions, L is the links field, VI is a links value associated with linking actions, E is the editors field, Ve is an editors value associated with editing actions, R is the reading field, and Vr is a reading value associated with reading actions.

39. (***Original***) The system of claim 31, further comprising an action determining module that determines whether the at least one user has performed at least one action on the at least one object.

40. (***Original***) The system of claim 39, further comprising a decaying module that decays the user affinity of the at least one user if a determination is made that the at least one user has not performed any actions on the at least one object.

41. (***Original***) The system of claim 40, wherein the decaying module decays the affinity score at a constant rate.

42. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 41, wherein the constant rate is a predetermined percentage per a predetermined period of time.

43. (***Original***) The system of claim 39, further comprising a resetting module that resets the user affinity if a determination is made that the at least one user has performed the at least one action on the at least one object.

44. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 31, further comprising a declining module that enables a system administrator to decline the user affinity.

45. (***Previously Presented***) The system of claim 31, further comprising declining module that enables the user to decline the user affinity.

46. (***Currently Amended***) A processor readable medium comprising processor readable code embodied therein for determining a user affinity for a topic, the medium comprising:

assigning code that causes a processor to assign a category to at least one object;

associating code that causes a processor to associate the at least one object with at least one user;

maintaining code that causes a processor to maintain a record of a number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user;

maintaining code that causes a processor to maintain a record of action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least on user, wherein the types of the actions comprise an authoring action type, a response action type, a linking action type, and an editing action type, and wherein the record is maintained in meta data associated with the at least one object;

associating code that associates a value with each of the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user; ~~and~~

determining code that causes a processor to calculate ~~determine~~ a user affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object ~~category~~ based on the number of times that actions are performed on the at least one object by the at least one user and the values associated with the action types of the actions performed on the at least one object by the at least one user, and

storing code that stores the user affinity score.

47. (***Currently Amended***) The medium of claim 46, wherein the determining code determines a ~~the~~ user affinity ~~by calculating an affinity score~~ for the user's association with the category based on the calculated user affinity score ~~at least one object~~.

48. (***Currently Amended***) The medium of claim 46 ~~47~~, further comprising normalizing code that causes a processor to normalize the affinity score calculated.

49. (***Original***) The medium of claim 48, further comprising applying code that causes a processor to apply a population threshold of a plurality of users to the affinity score.

50. (***Original***) The medium of claim 49, further comprising percentage associating code that causes a processor to associate a predetermined percentage of the plurality of users with the user affinity for the at least one topic.

51. (***Currently Amended***) The medium of claim 46, wherein the meta data associated with the at least one object comprises at least one of an author field that indicates authoring actions, a response to field that indicates response actions, a links field that indicates linking actions, an editors field that indicates editing actions, and a reading field that indicates reading actions.

52. (***Currently Amended***) The medium of claim 46 ~~51~~, wherein the user ~~further comprising calculating code that causes a processor to calculate an~~ affinity score for the user's association with the at least one object is calculated from a sum of weighted action type counts, wherein each action type count is determined by multiplying the number of times the user performed that action by the value associated with that action type.

53. (***Previously Presented***) The medium of claim 52, wherein the affinity score is calculated according to a formula of:

$$A * Va + T * Vt + L * Vl + E * Ve + R * Vr;$$

where A is the author value associated with authoring actions, T is the response to field, Vt is a response to value associated with response actions, L is the links field, VI is a links value associated with linking actions, E is the editors field, Ve is an editors value associated with editing actions, R is the reading field, and Vr is a reading value associated with reading actions.

54. (***Original***) The medium of claim 46, further comprising action determining code that causes a processor to determine whether the at least one user has performed at least one action on the at least one object.

55. (***Original***) The medium of claim 54, further comprising decaying code that causes a processor to decay the user affinity of the at least one user if a determination is made that the at least one user has not performed any actions on the at least one object.

56. (***Original***) The medium of claim 55, wherein the decaying code decays the affinity score at a constant rate.

57. (***Previously Presented***) The medium of claim *56,* wherein the constant rate is a predetermined percentage per a predetermined period of time.

58. (***Original***) The medium of claim 54, further comprising resetting code that causes a processor to reset the user affinity if a determination is made that the at least one user has performed the at least one action on the at least one object.

59. (***Original***) The medium of claim 46, further comprising declining code that causes a processor to enable a system administrator to decline the user affinity.

60. (***Original***) The medium of claim 46, further comprising declining code that causes a processor to enable the user to decline the user affinity.